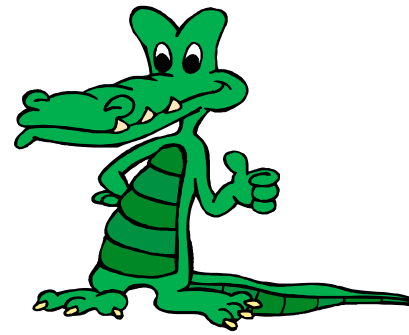




# THE SAFETY GATOR



## *Early Spring* 2004



**10<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Editor: Don Shipley**

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## Gas Scooter Safety

A safe gas scooter rider wears a helmet and also makes a point to:

### 1. Wear the proper clothing / pads.

Being seen is very important. Brightly colored, reflective helmets and clothing help make you more noticeable. Safety pads are important to help protect you against injury. Here is a list of recommended safety equipment:

- Helmet
- Elbow Pads
- Knee Pads
- Wrist Guards
- Gloves
- Shoes

### 2. Check your gas scooter's equipment.

A scooter needs more frequent attention than a car. The time to find out if there is something that needs attention is before you ride. Check the following:

- Check all nuts and bolts
- Steering moves freely
- Brakes and controls, for proper operation and location of levers
- Frame, for stress and fractures

- Tires, for wear

### 3. Test your gas scooter equipment.

Familiarize yourself with the scooter before you ride. Read and understand the instruction manual. Observe all safety and warning labels on your scooter. Check the controls. Ride very cautiously until you become familiar with the way the scooter handles.

### 4. Ride your gas scooter safely.

Obey all traffic laws while riding your gas scooter. Before you ride, check the [scooter laws](#) in your area to see where you can ride your gas scooter. Watch for cars and avoid riding in the rain whenever possible. Do not ride at night without reflective clothing and always use your headlights at night.

## Gas Scooter Safety Tips

1. Operators must comply with all local [scooter laws](#) and regulations. Check with your local legislative body or department of motor vehicles to determine local requirements. Pay special attention to local helmet laws. Licensing and registration varies from state to state.
2. Your insurance policy may not provide coverage for accidents involving this product. Contact your insurance agent for more information.

3. Your gas scooter is not a toy. It is intended for use by person's aged 16 or above.
4. Always wear your ANSI or Snell-approved helmet. Elbow and kneepads will protect you from laceration in case of a fall.
5. When you operate your gas scooter at night, be sure to use your headlights and wear light clothing to be as visible as possible to pedestrians and other vehicles.
6. Ride only on a smooth hard surface. Unless indicated, the gas scooters at Rad Gas Scooters are not designed to be used in off road conditions. Use caution when rolling over obstacles.
7. When riding, look up and ahead, keep your eyes on the horizon. You have a much better sense of balance and more reaction time.
8. Do not tailgate. Keep at least a 2 second gap.
9. Look where you want to go. The gas scooter follows your eyes. Especially, look through the turn. If you look straight ahead, you will go straight. Watch out for intersections when you have right of way.

10. Turn your head, don't rely solely on your mirrors. Look around you.

**Note: Consult the Provost marshals office to see the legality issues on using scooters on Fort Polk.**



## **LAWN MOWER SAFETY Keeping kids save**

**ANN ARBOR, MI** - An estimated 30 children under the age of 12 will visit the [University of Michigan Health System's](#) emergency department this summer with a life-altering foot, hand, face or lower extremity injury or amputation caused by a lawn mower - wounds that are completely preventable with a little education and common sense.



In most cases, says Becky D'Agostino, RN, a charge nurse in the [C.S. Mott Children's Hospital](#) recovery rooms, parents didn't realize that having a child sit on a riding mower with them or even having a child in the yard while they're cutting the lawn was dangerous.

She and other UMHS nurses and pediatricians at Mott hope they can inform other parents of the dangers before more accidents occur.

"It's usually not until it's too late and their child is seriously hurt that a parent says they'd wish they'd known about the dangers sooner," D'Agostino says. "Lawn mowers really have the potential to do great harm to the body, but so many people just don't understand that."

Each summer, U-M pediatricians and the U-M nursing staff at Mott see the devastating effects lawn mower injuries can have on children, ages 2 - 12, and their parents - reconstructive surgery, long hospital stays, and permanent disfigurement and disability.

This year, the group is taking steps to help prevent some of the 2,300 lawn mower injuries that the [American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons](#) estimates children will sustain this summer as the result of lawn mower incidents, by providing parents with safety tips.

**Tip 1: Keep the kids indoors while you mow**

Although it's usually a struggle to keep kids inside during the warm summer months, it's the first and most important step to keeping them safe while the lawn mower is on.

Several serious injuries can occur if children are in the yard while the mower is running. There's the risk that a parent might accidentally run over a child's hand or foot if he or she is playing too close to the mower, or if the lawn is wet and the child slips under the mower. Plus, there's always the chance that an object like a twig or a stone will fly out of the mower and strike the child.

"A child is just not safe in the yard when a mower is on," warns Frances Farley, M.D., assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the U-M Medical School, who has operated on many children injured by lawn mowers. "When the mower's running, a parent can't hear the child and, in some cases with riding mowers, they can't see the if the child is behind them."

More than half of all of the mower injuries that Farley cares for each summer involve a child who has been backed over by a riding mower. In most riding mowers, the blade is still engaged in reverse, causing parents, relatives or neighbors

to do serious harm to a unseen child standing or sitting behind the mower.

**Tip 2: Riding mowers aren't built for two**

It may seem like fun for kids to co-pilot the riding mower with mom and dad, but in most cases, it's an accident waiting to happen.

"Riding mowers are not designed for two people," says Farley. "They're unstable, especially on inclines, and if a child's on it with an adult, there's always the risk for falling off and sliding under the mower. Parents always thing their child is safe in their lap, but that's never the case."

And although most mowers have a safety feature which shuts off the engine when the rider gets off or falls off, that same feature will not be activated if just the child falls off.

In any circumstance, regardless of age, no riders other than the operator should be on a riding mower. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics encourages parents not to allow children under the age of 16 to even operate riding mowers, and suggests that no child under the age of 12 use a push mower.

**Tip 3: Ways keep mom and dad safe, too**

Adults operating lawn mowers are just as much at risk for injuries as their children.

Before adults even turn on the mower, they should make sure they have on proper hearing and eye protection, and that they're wearing sturdy shoes, not sandals or sneakers. In addition, don't forget to go around the yard and pick up loose objects in the lawn to prevent objects from projecting out of the mower. Also, remember to turn the mower off before crossing over gravel paths or roads, to avoid flying stones.

With more than 22 percent of lawn mower injuries involving the hand, fingers or wrist, Farley says to always make sure the engine is off and the mower blade has completely stopped rotating before attempting to remove debris from the mower or make adjustments to it.

Farley also encourages all adults to read their user's manual before operating the mower. Knowing how the machine operates will help

avoid injury to both children and adults. "The main thing to remember is all lawn mower injuries are completely preventable," she says. "These aren't just freak accidents. They're extremely serious and in most cases they change a child's or an adult's life forever."

<http://www.med.umich.edu/opm/newspage/2002/lawnmower.htm>



## SPRING CLEANING SAFETY

Health Watch is a Public Service of the [Office of News and Publications](#) and the [Library at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas](#). Health Watch is intended to provide general information only and should not replace the advice of a medical professional. You should contact your physician if you have questions about any of these topics.

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When you drag out the cleansers to give your house a spring-cleaning, make sure you don't put your children at risk.

At this time of year it's common to give the house a good once-over to spruce it up for warmer weather. But the chemicals and cleansers you use for the task can be harmful to children if they're accidentally touched or swallowed.

Pediatricians at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas say it only takes a few minutes out of sight for a child to get into a dangerous substance, and some of these

things don't take much longer than that to kill. Substances like mothballs, drain cleaners, insecticides and polishes all can be deadly. The youngest children are most at risk from accidental poisoning.

Dr. Robert Wiebe, a UT Southwestern pediatrician, says you should keep these substances locked up, in childproof containers and out of reach of children. While you're using them, keep them in range of your sight, and don't leave them unattended. Don't store these substances in other containers, especially not containers that look like they might hold food or drinks.

No matter how cautious you are, children have a knack for getting into things they shouldn't, so you should be prepared for the worst. Keep the number for your local poison control center by the telephone so you can find it immediately in an emergency.

### Spring Cleaning for Safety

A thorough spring cleaning can mean so much more to you than simply the good feeling that comes with maintaining the appearance of your home. If done properly, spring cleaning can also dramatically improve the safety of your home and family in the event of a fire.

One of the most important ways that cleaning around the house can improve safety is if you spend the time to reduce the clutter inside and around your home and garage. While clutter does not start fires, it can become the fuel for a fire. More fuel makes fires more difficult for the Fire Department to extinguish. Clutter may also make it more difficult for those in your home to escape when a fire breaks out.

Another important step in the spring cleaning process is to reduce or eliminate



hazardous chemicals in your home. Cleaners, paint and other common household chemicals can fuel a fire and are often hazardous to your health. Maintain only the amounts you need and be sure to use, store and dispose of household hazardous materials in a safe manner as outlined on the product. Never mix chemicals, even when disposing of them.

### Clear the clutter

Have you ever noticed on winter days when it's pouring buckets, you aren't too interested in going outside to throw something away? This results in a phenomenon known as winter clutter which leads to the spring cleaning we all know about.



Rags piled in basements, papers, books, old clothes, cluttered attics, and garages all present a fire danger. In addition to being places where fires could start, these cluttered conditions contribute to the "fuel load." What this means is, a house that is neat and free of clutter will not burn nearly as fast as one which has a lot of stuff lying around. In fact, past experience proves that neat houses rarely burn.



A good spring-cleaning is about the best fire protection you can use!

[Mt. Lebanon Fire Department](#)

## Safe Spring Cleaning and Gardening

During the spring months, many people spruce up their homes, autos and yards. Although these home and garden projects

can be good for the soul, they also carry some health risks from the use of cleaning and gardening products. Before you tackle these tasks, keep in mind some simple safety guidelines.

### Open windows

Vent the area that you are cleaning by turning on exhaust fans and opening windows. Inhaling fumes can irritate the eyes, nasal passages, throat and lungs. Occasionally headaches and dizziness can occur. If any symptoms arise, leave the area and get fresh air. Give the [American Association of Poison Control Centers \(AAPCC\)](#), a call for further advice. Their phone number is: 1-800-222-1222

### Use gloves

Don't forget to use rubber gloves if your hands will be in cleaning solutions. Wash and rinse accidental splashes to the skin immediately. If a solution gets in your eyes, remove any contact lenses and flush with a gentle stream of room-temperature water, while blinking, for 15 minutes. Call the [Poison Control Center](#) for further advice.

The toxicity and effects of cleaning products vary widely. While glass cleaners usually only irritate, many all-purpose and bathroom cleaners can be corrosive.

A lick of most furniture polishes may cause mouth and throat irritation, but a swallow could lead to chemical pneumonia - especially if ingestion includes coughing or choking. Some car polishes and cleaners cause only irritation, but there are many others that can cause tissue burns.





## Garden with care

Gardening is a wonderful hobby, but make it a safe pastime. Check all label instructions before you use any gardening chemicals and wear the proper suggested gear. Fertilizers are usually only an irritant, but those with pesticides can have toxic effects. When you are uncertain about a product, call the [Poison Control Center](#). Better yet, find an organic way to deal with your gardening challenges.

## Store products safely

When you have completed your job, secure all products in a locked area away from children and pets. Be sure to keep them in their original containers, so they won't be mistaken for something else.

Valley View Hospital - All Rights Reserved

## Eye Safety while Gardening

### Eyewear

Hazards to the eyes lurk in home gardens, yet many people never think to put on a pair of safety goggles before mowing the lawn, trimming bushes and trees or using garden chemicals. As a result, eye injuries happen. A significant and shocking statistic is that eye injuries account for **10%** of all injuries seen in UK hospitals. There are around **30,000 cases each year** resulting from apparently innocuous activities such as gardening, DIY or car maintenance.

Safety spectacles are intended to shield the wearer's eyes from impact hazards such as flying fragments, objects, large chips, and particles. It is recommended you use eye safety spectacles with side shields when there is a

hazard from flying objects. Non-side shield spectacles are not acceptable eye protection for impact hazards.



### The SM30 MESH SPECTACLE Offers an excellent level of protection incorporating the following features

- Adjustable ratchet sidearms angle the nylon frame to suit individual contours, ensuring excellent fit
- Wide vision one piece, interchangeable lens
- Lightweight with modern futuristic style
- Close fitting contoured sideshields for lateral protection
- Frame Colors- Red, Blue or Orange
- C.E. certified to EN1731/F

### The SM40/50 MESH SPECTACLE Offers an excellent level of protection incorporating the following features:-

- Unique ratchet mechanism for angle adjustment, closing gaps for ultimate protection
- Futuristic styled polypropylene frame
- Available in two models, one with elastic headband and the other with temple arms
- Wide vision one piece lens
- Lightweight



- No misting or scratching problems
- Blackened lenses to stop reflection / glare
- Frame Colors- Red, Blue Yellow
- lose fitting contoured frame with integral lateral protection
- Temple fitting has five positions on length adjuster
- Soft PVC comfort nose / bridge pad

C.E. certified to EN1731/F



- <http://www.personal-protective-safety-equipment.co.uk/>



## FORSCOM STOPP Program

**S**top before you act, don't rush into a situation or mission without considering the risks against the benefits.

**T**hink about what you are about to do, what is the right way to safely accomplish the task.

**O**bserve the situation and surrounding environment. What are the risks?

**P**lan; develop your plan to reduce the risks And decide how to best implement the plan.

**P**roceed with safety, Supervise continuously and Constantly look for ways to improve.

New ID Card Tag Stopp Cards are out...  
Make sure you have yours.

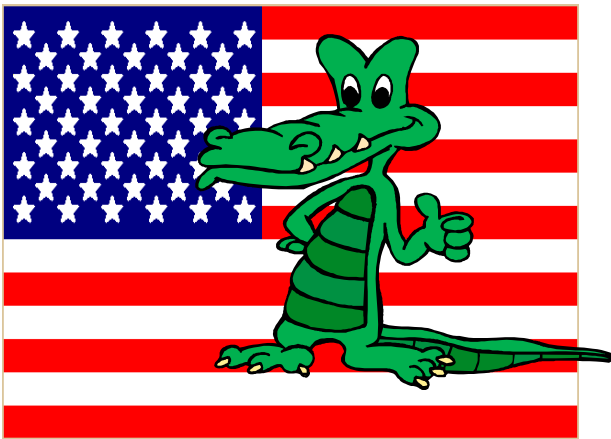
**WHAT to do if you encounter  
an Aggressive Driver**

**Don't Become a Victim**

- **Do not engage the other driver.**
- **Avoid eye contact.**
- **Do not return gestures.**
- **Do not use the horn.**
- **Get the tag number.**



- **Report the driver to law enforcement**
- **If approached drive to a safe location.**
- **Put pride in the back seat.**
- **Always wear your safety belt.**
- **Be a Courteous Driver**



**John R. Costa**  
**Installation Safety Manager**

